

# SOLO INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY AND FAMILY STRATEGIES OF ANTIQUE DEALERS IN WESTERN CAMEROON

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**Abstract:** *Globalization, the education of women, the female wage earners and their resulting emancipation are at the basis of a certain number of transformations that African societies are going through today. The transformations in question can be grasped through the dynamics of populations, in this case the mobility of men and women who circulate on either side of the terrestrial globe. Nowadays, we observe the emergence of new figures of mobility and international migration, namely women and children. Currently, women have become real actors of mobility and international migration. The reflection initiated in the context of this article follows on from work on international mobility and family strategies. It is based, empirically, on the analysis of the realities experienced by the populations of western Cameroon by seizing the antique dealers from the Nun, actors of international mobility in their family strategies. In the Nun, art constitutes a field which not only provides enormous wealth, but also the one which ipso facto leads its actors on the scene of international mobility. Like the members of their families who are there, when the antique dealers are staying in the Nun, they show signs of material and financial ease. However, the particularity of the international mobilities they carry out between Cameroon and other countries around the world is based on the fact that they are fundamentally male. Indeed, unlike other players in international migration that we meet in other fields of activity which most often transform family reunification into reality in record time, antique dealers carry out their travel movements to foreign countries on their own. Forms of mobility that do not result in the breaking of ties between antique dealers and members of their families who have remained in the middle of their departure, especially women and children. In concrete terms, the long-term stays of antique dealers outside the Cameroonian national framework do not destroy family harmony. Based on documentary analysis, direct observation and semi-structured interviews, this research enabled us to decipher the strategies that antique dealers, actors of international mobility, implement to maintain the bond they have with their family members. In fact, antique dealers use the telephone and the Internet to bypass the remoteness imposed on them by the exercise of their profession. They make significant investments in material and financial terms to ensure the management and control of their families from a distance. They do not hesitate to settle in a host environment as part of immigration or a white marriage contract. In the same sense, they proceed to the marginalization and the peripherization of the members of their families by involving them in their activities in a geographical space limited to the national framework. In terms of perverse effects, their movements are not without influence on the conjugal family and tradition.*

**Keywords:** International solo mobility; Family strategies; antique dealer; West Cameroon; Noun.

## 1. Introduction

Globalization, the education of women, the female wage earners and their resulting emancipation are at the basis of a certain number of transformations that African societies are going through today. The transformations in question are able to be grasped through the dynamics of populations, in this case the mobility of men and women who circulate on either side of the terrestrial globe. In a context marked by the remoteness of migratory distances, we can observe the emergence of new figures of mobility and international migration, namely women and children. Currently and for

nearly three decades, according to the analyzes of Gregory (1988), women have become real actors in mobility and international migration. From a period when the international migrations of women were more conceived within the framework of family reunification and where women made their movements with their spouses, what Akouma Kouni (1993) describes as "Passive female migration" in his work, he There is currently a trend towards the feminization of migration, with women moving more and more alone. The reflection initiated in the context of this article follows on from work on international mobility and family strategies. It takes the opposite view of the contemporary research movement that involves women as real actors in the dynamics of international mobility or migration. Also, West Cameroon, in particular the department of Noun, is a Cameroonian locality made up mainly of Bamoun. Sculpture is a widely practiced activity there. The production, transformation and marketing of works of art that take place in this part of Cameroon are the object of admiration and even envy on the part of almost all social categories, in this case young people. Art in the Nun constitutes a field which not only provides enormous wealth, but also the one which ipso facto leads its actors on the scene of international mobility. Given that there are many nationals of this locality who are settled outside Cameroon, that is to say in all or almost all the countries of the world. Just like the members of their various families who are there, when the antique dealers are staying in the Nun, they show outward signs of material and financial ease. It is in this capacity that Honoré Mimche and Zenabou Tourere, speaking of antique dealers in West Cameroon, emphasize that "*Through their mobility and the social and economic networks they mobilize, these populations specializing in the marketing and export of works of art are at the base of the constitution of a new bourgeois class. Being an antique dealer has become locally an indicator of social success, even a class ethos*" (2009: 80). Concretely, the antique dealers constitute in the West of Cameroon an upper social class on the economic level, an economic elite to use the notional category of our two authors.

However, the particularity of the international mobilities they carry out between Cameroon and other countries around the world is based on the fact that they are fundamentally male. Indeed, unlike other actors of international migration that we meet in other fields of activity like diplomats who most often transform family reunification into reality in record time, antique dealers carry out their mobility. on both sides of the different countries of the world in solo. In other words, they move around leaving their wives and children in their home environment. A reality that is revealed by these words Philippe Pierre (2003: 32) when he affirms that "*The duration of international mobility is diversifying (from a few weeks, without the spouse and children, to several years)*".

The solo mobility in question does not reflect a break in family ties between the antique dealers and the members of their families who have remained in the midst of their departure, namely women and children. The stays of the antique dealers often of long duration because being expressed of times in terms of years, do not destroy the family harmony. It is therefore right that we can ask ourselves a number of questions. In particular, what are the strategies that antique dealers, actors of solo international mobility implement to "make family at a distance" when they settle at a destination having left their spouses and children in their home environment? How do family strategies differ depending on whether international migration is initiated by a man or

a woman? How do family strategies vary depending on the national or international nature of migration? Under what conditions do families reunite at destination?

To answer these different questions, this research adopted a qualitative methodological approach. In doing so, direct observation, non-formalized interview and semi-structured interview are field investigation instruments that have been used. Direct observation has facilitated, on the basis of knowledge of the environment, the identification of a number of cases. The informal interview consisted whenever the opportunity presented itself, to provoke a discussion with the people who could have a more or less interesting opinion on the question. As for the semi-structured interview, it was carried out with antique dealers, actors of international mobility, their wives, their children and other members of the extended family. It was also carried out with people who have held a position of responsibility in the municipality, an actor from civil society and an imam. On the subject of data processing and analysis, thematic content analysis was of great help. It is therefore for this purpose that the present work is structured around five points, namely the consensus around the key concepts, the family strategies of antique dealers in solo international mobility, the women antiquarians in family strategies in connection with international mobility, the variation of family strategies in national and international mobilities of antique dealers and their conditions for the reunification of the families of antique dealers in a host environment.

## **2. Consensus around key concepts**

One of the requirements that research work in the social sciences must meet, following the principles set out by researchers such as the French sociologist Emile Durkheim (2007), consists in defining the concepts beforehand. Indeed, the structuring terms identified in this work deserve to be clarified. The concept of international solo mobility is made up of three variables, the noun mobilities, the qualifying adjective international and the adverbial phrase solo. To understand the concept of mobilities, it is advisable to start from migration which is conceived as being the movement of populations from a point X to a point Y with mobility of residence. After André Akoun and Pierre. Ansart (1990: 341), "migration is a displacement of the population with a change of residence, from one geographic unit to another [...] from one living space to another". In order to talk about mobility from the perspective of this work, migration must first take place. Thus, the continuous movements of trips between Cameroon, the place of departure, and the country or the continent of destination, the host environment, reflect mobility. The same is true of movements of travel between several countries within the host continent. The adjective international qualifies a phenomenon that is developing in several countries. As for the adverbial expression in solo, it accounts for an action that a man or a woman performs alone, that is to say without the company of any person. In short, it is an action that we perform in a solitary way. In this logic, international Mobilities en solo designate, within the framework of this work, all the movements of movements of the antique dealers which are carried out from the West of Cameroon to achieve a migratory route which goes beyond the national framework in order to reach many countries of all or almost all the continents of the terrestrial globe in the exercise of their profession. In this sense, the movements of displacements carried out go from the west of Cameroon, in particular from the department of Noun, mainly cross Cameroonian cities such as Kribi, Douala and

Yaounde. They affect all the continents of the earth, reaching countries such as Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Nigeria, Chad, Morocco, Tunisia, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal or South Africa on the map. African; France, Germany, England, Italy, Spain, Belgium and Switzerland at European level. These movements reach the American continent where they cross countries like the USA and Canada in North America and Brazil, Argentina and Venezuela in South America, not to mention the countries of Asia.

In the same logic, two elements structure family strategies, the substantive strategies and the qualifier family. Strategy is the set of means implemented by one or more individuals, when they face a certain number of constraints, to achieve their ends. It is in this perspective that it is defined as the art of organizing and coordinating a set of operations to achieve a goal. (Gerti Hesselning 1991: 205) in his conceptualization, affirms that it is "the way in which an actor achieves his various objectives according to the constraints to which he is subjected and the means at his disposal". By applying it to the family,

An antique dealer, in a simple way, is presented as a merchant of objects of antiquity. It is important to know what your work is based on. It is about a person who exercises a profession which consists in carrying out the collection, the restoration and the marketing of objects of antiquity or at least of old objects of art. In fact, it is important for anyone who works as an antique dealer to have a good knowledge of art objects, a mastery of the art. Because, to exercise this profession, it is necessary to know the art which is the object of the trade of which the question of authenticity occupies an important place. Beyond knowledge or mastery, it is necessary to have a minimum of knowledge in art treatment. There are times when a part needs to be treated before it goes on sale. This is what the antique dealers of West Cameroon have as an advantage. For the most part, they were craftsmen before becoming antique dealers. So, within the framework of the training in the trade of antique dealer, those of the West of Cameroon who are defined as such have for the most part started beforehand by being craftsmen. This clarification contributes to the explanation of the amalgam that exists in the universe of antique dealers in Western Cameroon. In fact, many artisans in this environment define themselves as antique dealers. However, this amalgamation should not take place. Insofar as the craftsman is the one who produces manual works. This subsequently allows us to understand the nuance that exists between the objects that are handled by the two art workers. In fact, while the craftsman produces contemporary objects, the antique dealer collects and sells ancient art objects. What are the latter's family strategies in international mobility?

### **3. Family strategies of antique dealers in solo international mobility**

There are many strategies used by antiquarians in western Cameroon to form a family at a distance when they are in reception settings, as part of their international mobility while their wives and children have remained in the starting environment and varied. They range from the use of new information and communication technologies (NICT) to the mobilization of the family sociability network through the solitary control of the calendar, the diplomacy of the financial weapon, the almost permanent installation in the environment, reception white marriage and the creation or development of activities at the national level.

#### **4. The telephone or the Internet, the main link between mobile antique dealers and members of the family network**

Telephone contact remains the main link between antique dealers on the move and members of their families who are still in the middle of their departure. It is the same for the internet connection. Indeed, distant from their families because of their international mobility, antique dealers use the power of the telephone to stay close to them. They keep in touch with the members of their families who remained in the middle of their departure by making regular phone calls through which they make sharing and exchanges of feelings that allow them to keep each other powerful emotional ties. The telephone calls that mobile antique dealers generally make to their families are characterized by the time and duration of their execution or the number of interlocutors, of receivers who intervene during their course.

The calls in question, at the level of the conjugal family, are generally received after the evening meal if not at the end of the day. They usually take a long time, half an hour and sometimes hours. A way for the actor of international mobility to mark his presence even though he is actually absent, with a view to immersing himself in the various problems or realities of the family. Compared to interlocutors or call receivers, the spouse of the mobile antique dealer is most often the main interlocutor. It is through his device that the calls are generally received and the children or all the other people living in the same housing unit exchange in turn with the actor of international mobility so that the phone is returned to his spouse after the round of household members. It is not wrong to point out that this call to bypass the distance vis-à-vis family members is sometimes made directly via the device of the member with whom the international mobility actor needs to exchange, without necessarily going through the spouse. However, the least that can be said is that this approach which consists for antique dealers in communicating with all the other members of the conjugal family through the spouse's phone is not free at all. It is a strategy or mechanism for monitoring family members. Through these calls, the actor of international mobility checks the family unit and the state of discipline within the family. In fact, through these phone calls, the antiquarian is made aware of who is or is not in the living unit at a time of day when everyone is supposed to be at home, in accordance with current practices in West Cameroon, particularly in the socio-cultural world of the Bamoun.

Beyond phone calls, the internet connection that we use thanks to a computer, a smartphone or at least a mobile phone in the current context of the digital revolution, with the advent of the most sophisticated devices, is used by antique dealers in international mobility to stay in contact with their families in starting midpoint. It is actually through the Internet that the exchange of certain documents, like photos, takes place between antique dealers and members of their families. In the same sense, antique dealers use devices such as Skype, Face book, WhatsApp, if we stick to the most used, to carry out more or less active exchanges with members of the family. These different correspondences that antique dealers make with family members back in the country through the telephone and / or the internet connection, although being virtual, are still effective. They are effective in the sense that they constitute a factor of communion between the members of a transnational family, a family whose members are distributed in different and distant national spaces.

## **5. Knowledge and solitary mastery of the calendar**

The fact that the antique dealers in western Cameroon are the only ones to have knowledge and even mastery of their calendar, with regard to the scheduling of their various activities and their movement movements on a purely programmatic level, plays a strategic role in maintaining family stability. Indeed, antique dealers do not easily share information relating to their mobility, especially when they are in the middle of their destination. In the dynamics of international mobility, when an antique dealer takes upon himself the responsibility of staying for a relatively long time in a host environment, he does not easily transmit the exact information to his family, even to his wife and children. That, with a view to avoiding arousing family panic and creating frustration that could lead to a breakdown of the union. It is in this logic that, to maintain the harmony of the family although being far from it, the antique dealers generally adopt the attitudes of the people who will be with their families in the near future even if the idea of making a long stay at destination is already stopped at their level. They entertain family members with very nice words. It is in this vein that they reach the end of their stays as planned or defined. Antic dealers generally adopt the attitudes of people who will be with their families soon even though the idea of making a long stay at their destination has already been decided at their level. They entertain family members with very nice words. It is in this vein that they reach the end of their stays as planned or defined. Antics dealers generally adopt the attitudes of people who will be with their families in the near future even though the idea of making a long stay at their destination has already been decided at their level. They entertain family members with very nice words. It is in this vein that they reach the end of their stays as planned or defined.

## **6. Financial weapon diplomacy**

Money is an exchange instrument which allows social actors to carry out their various financial transactions. It is wisely used by antique dealers to ensure the management of their families from a distance. Money is a weapon for maintaining balance in the families of antique dealers. Because of their absence, the sums they send to family members, friends and colleagues, through money transfer structures, for the satisfaction of their daily needs, are important and subsequently interesting. By indicating that Express Union constitutes the relationship that exists between antique dealers in international mobility and their families who have remained in the middle of their departure, when they are in host environments, most of our informants in the field reported that money is a strong link between antique dealers and their families, especially their wives and children back home. In antique dealers, the family management method, when it involves expenses such as the payment of food ration, schooling, and hospitalization, the purchase of medicines or assistance to other members of the family extended in difficulty is the one that involves making money transfers. Because we have at our disposal a person abroad or a person among the whites, to use the expressions consecrated in the family universe of the antique dealers of West Cameroon, a person who can intervene at any time to unblock a given difficult situation, one is not only safe, but also and above all one remains faithful to this person. This reality allows players in international mobility linked to the art to manage their different families remotely. From this perspective, it is essential as a family strategy.

### **7. The installation of antics dealers in a host environment, a destination integration strategy or a family strategy?**

Antics dealers, in their multiple logics of international mobility, for some adopt destination fixation as a strategy. This fixation constitutes not only a strategy of integration in the reception environment, but also and more a family strategy. In fact, when they arrive in reception centers, they explore the environment. When they immerse themselves in the environment in question and not only manage to identify the favorable framework for carrying out their activities and manage to resolve the difficult equation of residential integration, they become sedentary. In doing so, they move from a mobility situation characterized by frequent residential instability to another defined by being fixed in a well-defined place in this perspective. This fixation, the better this anchoring constitutes a strategy of socioeconomic integration in the host environment. It allows antique dealers to capitalize on the longer or shorter time to get to know the environment, mobilize the necessary resources and, as far as possible, formalize the installation and subsequently the integration. It is more of a family strategy in the sense that it no longer gives the migrant antiquarian the possibility of being in frequent mobility, that is to say in frequent movements back and forth between the place of departure and the host environment, between the country of origin and the country of destination. Suddenly, the members of the family, in particular the women and the children emerge in a decisive way as a category of actors which ensure the supply of the antique dealer with products intended for the commercialization.

In reality, with the installation of antique dealers in the host environment, antique dealers who were initially key players in the process of collecting and marketing objects of art, it is no longer possible for them to intervene physically and regularly in the middle of the start. Thus, women and children come fully into play. They become essential in the dynamics of operations. It is they who now carry out the collection of ancient art objects for those objects that come from Cameroon. This participation of members of the family network in the exercise of the profession of antique dealers as actors of the collection makes them indispensable people. A reality which is not without effect on the family in the sense that it allows the different members to evolve from now on in synergy. Although the white marriage is one of the corollaries of sedentarization.

### **8. The union contract in the host country, when the family strategy involves a white marriage**

The antique dealers who are at the heart of this research are, from a statistical point of view, overwhelmingly Muslims. They practice Islam for the most part. A religion in which the polygamous marriage regime is admitted. On this basis, they contract unions in the middle of the destination although they have left their spouses in the middle of the departure. In fact, the migration or international mobility project being a development project where antique dealers take the initiative to improve their living conditions and those of their families by moving, on land or in the host country, they do not skimp on any means of integration. It is in this perspective that other unions intervene. Unions which take place in the host territory and which are generally sham marriages. The white marriage being understood here as being the various contracts of union with women of nationality of the host country with a view to

facilitating the procedures for obtaining papers. Papers which in turn make it possible to promote socio-economic integration in terms of access to the advantages which have hitherto been reserved for nationals or at least for any person having obtained the nationality of the host country.

It is appropriate to say that it is the papers that make naturalization possible. A phenomenon that promotes the economic and material well-being of family members who have remained in the country of origin or in the midst of departure. We cannot avoid the fact that these unions constitute at the same time a framework of sentimental, emotional and sexual development for the antique dealers in the host country. Given that the form of mobility or at least international migration in which they are registered is mobility or solo international migration. In the host country, they have neither spouse nor children. The spouse with whom one is able to satisfy a certain number of sentimental, emotional and sexual needs. A reality which fundamentally explains the new contracts of union or white marriage in the land of reception.

### **9. Investment in economic activities at the level of the country of origin for the well-being of the family**

Antique dealers are economic entrepreneurs. Their profession is eminently economic entrepreneurship. Apart from the fact that they carry out movements to go and carry out operations of trade in ancient art objects in foreign countries, they do a lot of business in Cameroon. In fact, the first characteristic feature of antique dealers, in particular those who have had notable success in the profession and who are regularly on the move not only between Western countries and Cameroon, but also between Western countries, since the West constitutes the most popular destination, is based on the fact of the provision of a gallery in one of the two main Cameroonian cities of Douala and Yaounde. These galleries are local art exhibition spaces. They are intended for exhibition or marketing and at the same time constitute initiation frameworks for family members, in this case the youngest who are interested in the profession. The galleries also ensure the supply of family members of antique dealers who have remained in the country when the antique dealers are going through difficult times in the exercise of their profession and cannot provide for the needs of the latter. Since there are times when the activities do not work. We therefore use the resources already accumulated or other sources of accumulation of economic capital. in this case the youngest who are interested in the profession. The galleries also ensure the supply of family members of antique dealers who have remained in the country when the antique dealers are going through difficult times in the exercise of their profession and cannot provide for the needs of the latter. Since there are times when the activities do not work. We therefore use the resources already accumulated or other sources of accumulation of economic capital. in this case the youngest who are interested in the profession. The galleries also ensure the supply of family members of antique dealers who have remained in the country when the antique dealers are going through difficult times in the exercise of their profession and cannot provide for the needs of the latter. Since there are times when the activities do not work. We therefore use the resources already accumulated or other sources of accumulation of economic capital.

In the same perspective, antique dealers invest in real estate. They are real players in the national rental housing market where we meet them as owners or lessors. The field of transport is no exception. They have shares in travel agencies or

owners of transport vehicles. This is the case with taxis for urban transport or coaches, or even buses or minibuses for interurban transport. It is wise to indicate that the financial resources generated within the framework of these different activities intervene as palliative or reserve resources. When business goes through tough times with antique dealers and when they face financial hardships,

#### **10. The family social network, a protective shield for members of the family network in difficulty**

The extended family acts as a protective shield for members of the nuclear family of antique dealers. It plays this role when the latter are in difficulty or are conspicuous by their absence due to migration or solo international mobility. Indeed, during the times of absence of the antique dealers, their close families, the members of the conjugal family, including the spouse and the children, are placed under the authority, the control and the protection of the extended family. In this logic, the communitarianism which prevails in the societies of the West of Cameroon and which materializes by the various forms of mutual assistance, participates in a strategic way to fill the void created by the absence of the antique dealers. In fact, during times of absence from antique dealers and more so during prolonged absence, a form of irregular absence which generally results in the breakdown of telephone communication and the cessation of transfer of financial resources or material goods, members of the extended family generally intervene as a substitute for antique dealers. They give them the support they need as much as possible. This is the case of multifaceted support in the areas of food, health, education and clothing when attention is focused on the elements that are mentioned repeatedly. They give them the support they need as much as possible. This is the case of multifaceted support in the areas of food, health, education and clothing when attention is focused on the elements that are mentioned repeatedly. They give them the support they need as much as possible. This is the case of multifaceted support in the areas of food, health, education and clothing when attention is focused on the elements that are mentioned repeatedly.

#### **11. Women antique dealers, family strategies and international mobility**

The profession of antique dealer is the prerogative of men. Few are the women who evolve in this field of activity. They are there all the same, but in an ancillary way. Proof that "the right to migrate is desexualized" as Honoré Mimche et al. (2013: 171). Throughout the analysis, the family strategies of antique dealers have been the main focus of this work. Because men exercise a monopoly in this area of activity, the family strategies highlighted up to this level are masculine strategies. In order to demonstrate to what extent the family strategies of antique dealers are different depending on whether the migration is initiated by a man or by a woman, it is advisable to take an interest in women antique dealers or women antique dealers in the dynamics of international mobility.

The analysis of the field of activity of antique dealers at the national level, better the decoding of the national field of the collection and the marketing of the old objects of art reveals a weak female representativeness. The same is true, if not more, of the careful observation of the network of international mobility of antique dealers in western Cameroon. This low female representativeness, far from being perceived as a trivial phenomenon, constitutes in the opinion of this research an indicator of the

strategic refusal of women to take an interest in a sector of activity which maintains relations of excommunication with marriage. Marriage constituting in the West region of Cameroon and in this case in the Kingdom of Bamoun, a decisive element of mobility in the social hierarchy. Since, whatever the social position that the woman of West Cameroon occupies, if this position is not associated with that of wife, she always has the feeling that something is not working. Because of this reality, the women we meet in this field of activity are essentially free women. Women who are not married and whose main characteristic is that they are marked with the seal of autonomy and responsibility towards themselves. Their status as free and autonomous women gives them the power to define their orientations on their own. They are not under the control of a man who would come and dictate to them what to do. They manage to move around at their convenience in a full-time activity.

Regarding married women, since there are some; the family strategy consists in subscribing to the logic of marriage when the employment equation is already resolved. In fact, married women antique dealers generally ensure their professional integration before entering matrimonial matters. To be honest, they get married when they are already working as an antique dealer. Certainly, with a view to imposing or keeping their profession when they get married. However, this reality does not allow them, as is almost the case with free women, to deploy in the same way as men who evolve in the profession.

It is wise to note that in the international migration of antiques which is developing in stages, women who make the displacement are rare. Strategically, the size of those on the move is statistically very puny. They are not only very few in number, but also and more from the category of independent or free women antique dealers.

In the same analytical perspective, women antiquarians register their mobility dynamics on a purely tactical level within a restricted spatiotemporal framework. In fact, compared to space, they are rare, those of women antique dealers who move to the point of going beyond the Cameroonian national triangle. They are limited most often and for the most part to the level of the first stage of the process of international migration by stages that constitute the cities of Douala and Yaoundé. It is within this spatial framework, in particular in these two cities that they ensure the distribution of their products. When their trips did not only consist of going to the two international airports of Yaounde Nsimalen or Douala. Failing to go to the port of the economic capital of Cameroon to transfer products to partners abroad by sea. In addition, in relation to the time spent at destination or the length of stay in a reception environment, female antique dealers spend less time compared to their male counterparts. In the same sense, they spend less time in the profession, the better they retire earlier.

## **12. Strategic variation linked to the migratory route in the dynamics of international mobility**

The strategies that antique dealers implement to make family from a distance are many and varied. They vary according to the migratory route in the dynamics of international mobility. In fact, depending on whether the migratory journey carried out is limited to the national territorial framework or goes beyond, the family strategies of antique dealers are diversified.

The analysis of the system of solo international mobility of antique dealers in Western Cameroon reveals the highly strategic and subsequently unavoidable character of Douala and Yaoundé. These two cities are the main stopover points for antique dealers not only when they make the outgoing migration, but also when their migratory movement is that of return. During the departure trip, Douala and Yaoundé constitute the first stages of the migratory journey or the first transit hubs that antique dealers use for African, European or American countries. The antique dealers have made these two spaces places of mobilization of resources for the continuation of the migratory journey. Until this stage, during emigration, they benefit from the real and not virtual warmth of the members of the family network who provide them with direct support. Which supports are expressed in terms of assistance in the various operations linked to the final preparations for the trip. Thus, they are involved in the last purchases that the antique dealers make in the two big cities of Cameroon. In the same sense, they are the main guides up to the level of the two international airports.

As part of their return trip or when the antique dealers come to Cameroon for a stay, depending on the city from which they are arriving or landing, family members make the trip from the home environment to ensure the reception of their spouses or their parents when the children are part of the delegation that travels to welcome them. Frequently, it is the women who make the trip to welcome their spouses. The women in these two big cities, will most often welcome, better pick their husbands fresh from the descent of the plane. In this sense, they reconnect with emotional warmth, no longer virtual but real, insofar as they achieve physical contact with their husbands.

What makes the particularity of this stage in the dynamics of the international mobilities of antique dealers to the point of accounting for the strategic variation depending on whether the migratory route is national or international? It is based on a key parameter linked to the active and direct participation of the conjugal family network alongside the antique dealers. Indeed, the transit migration of antique dealers in Douala or Yaoundé takes place, as is already apparent in the background above, when they move from West Cameroon or simply from the Noun department to go beyond the national triangle. The stopover time in these two transit cities for antique dealers is spent in the company of members of the family network or at least between spouses. This transit migration is expressed in three main ways. It is first of all transient insofar as it lasts a short time. In general, this mode of transit is used during migration or return journeys. It is then temporary. In the sense that antique dealers, in their movements, are often part of the logic of spending a more or less long time in the middle of transit. But, it is a clearly and predefined time to spend in the two big cities before continuing the migratory journey. This transit modality operates both in the outward phase and in the return phase in international mobility. Finally, it is temporary, insofar as the antique dealers in their migratory projects, settle temporarily in a first step in one of the two big cities in order to carry out the continuity of the process after having mobilized a certain number of necessary resources. Whether in passenger, temporary or temporary modes of transit, antique dealers generally make their stop over in Douala and Yaoundé in the company of members of the family network. A reality that differs from other forms of transit migration that antique dealers perform when they are on the move outside the

national spatial framework. Since they do them solo, that is to say without any family company. Under what conditions does the family unit of antique dealers, dislocated due to their international mobility, become established in the host environment? Antics dealers generally make their stopover in Douala and Yaoundé in the company of members of the family network. A reality that differs from other forms of transit migration that antique dealers perform when they are on the move outside the national spatial framework. Since they do them solo, that is to say without any family company. Under what conditions does the family unit of antique dealers, dislocated due to their international mobility, become established in the host environment? Antics dealers generally make their stopover in Douala and Yaoundé in the company of members of the family network. A reality that differs from other forms of transit migration that antique dealers perform when they are on the move outside the national spatial framework. Since they do them solo, that is to say without any family company. Under what conditions does the family unit of antique dealers, dislocated due to their international mobility, become established in the host environment?

### **13. The conditions for the reunification of the families of antique dealers in a host environment**

The families of the antique dealers reunite at their destination when the children have not only adopted the trade of their parents, but also and more so when they have become adults. Indeed, when the antique dealers initiate their migratory project, by implementing it, they carry out, from a physical point of view; a movement of displacement which makes them operates a rupture or a separation with the other members of the family network. By focusing attention on the nuclear family, the international migration of antique dealers and the dynamics of mobility in which they are part of causing separation from members of the family network, in this case women and children. Their inclusion in the dynamics of international mobility also creates a rupture between them and members of the extended family. This is the case for grandparents, parents, aunts and uncles, cousins or any other people with whom they have special ties, such as friends. Therefore, the separation or rupture that migration and the international mobility of antique dealers entail takes into account both the nuclear family and the extended dimension of the family institution.

However, because it is the nuclear family members who are most affected by separation, in that they are the category of people on whom the realities of separation have the most impact, that either positively or negatively, there is more interest in the nuclear family. By being part of a dynamic of international mobility alone, in other words by leaving women and children in the middle of departure, this creates a rupture which subsequently leads to the dislocation of the family unit. In this logic, we observe the emergence of a transnational family with members who are now established both on the national territory and beyond. The other members of the family, mostly statistically, remained in the middle of the start.

In such a context, the reunification for the antique dealers with the members of their family who remained in the middle of departure should take place when the latter have arrived to make the trip to join them at their destination so as to reconstitute the family in the middle of installation. This reunification could also take place in the event that one of the members of the family network who remained in the middle of departure would have migrated for the host country. However, that is not the case.

Given that antique dealers have made an international migration solo and are the only ones to be part of a dynamic of international mobility. Speaking of migration or international solo mobility, since it is important to come back to this and provide other details, this does not only reflect the fact that the migratory movement is carried out alone, in other words, without any family company. This also indicates that no member of the family of antique dealers made the trip to join them at their destination. Whether it is his spouse or his children. In reality, the exception is made for adult children and precisely those who have followed in the footsteps of parents in the profession. Therefore, it is on condition that the children have adopted the profession of the parents, that they have become adults and registered in the dynamics of international mobility that the reunification of the families of the antique dealers at destination is possible. This also indicates that no member of the family of antique dealers made the trip to join them at their destination. Whether it is his spouse or his children. In reality, the exception is made for adult children and precisely those who have followed in the footsteps of parents in the profession. Therefore, it is on condition that the children have adopted the profession of the parents, that they have become adults and registered in the dynamics of international mobility that the reunification of the families of the antique dealers at destination is possible. This also indicates that no member of the family of antique dealers made the trip to join them at their destination. Whether it is his spouse or his children. In reality, the exception is made for adult children and precisely those who have followed in the footsteps of parents in the profession. Therefore, it is on condition that the children have adopted the profession of the parents, that they have become adults and registered in the dynamics of international mobility that the reunification of the families of the antique dealers at destination is possible.

#### **14. Conclusion**

To mark a pause in this reflection, it was a question of analyzing the strategies that the antique dealers of West Cameroon, registered in the dynamics of international mobility, use to maintain the link with the members of their families who remained in the country. Indeed, the antique dealers of the West of Cameroon use the NICT in this case the telephone and the Internet to bypass the physical distance which imposes on them the exercise of their profession. They make significant investments in material and financial terms to ensure the management and control of their families from a distance. They also do not hesitate to settle in a host environment in the form of permanent migration or sedentarization and in terms of a white marriage contract. In the same way, they proceed to the marginalization and the peripheralization of the members of their families, their wives and their children, by involving them in their activities in a limiting spatial grid because restricted to the national framework by making an exception to the adult children who have embraced them not in the profession. This research work reveals that, notwithstanding the distance that separates antique dealers from members of their families, due to the dynamics of international mobility in which they are involved, technological, material, financial, economic and social resources allow them to make remote family. In terms of research perspective, what can be the perverse effects of the real prolonged physical absence of antique dealer's vis-à-vis members of their various family networks.

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