

## [SE13-ICT]

## Migrants, Diasporas and ICTs Adoption in the South

**Name:** Solène Morvant-Roux  
**Affiliation:** University of Geneva, Senior Lecturer and Researcher

**Brief Bio**  
*Session Leader(s)*

Solène Morvant-Roux is a socio-economist, senior lecturer, and researcher at the University of Geneva, Switzerland. She holds a PhD in economics from Lyon University (France). She has been involved in several research projects in Morocco, Mexico and in the Dominican Republic funded by French Foundation for Science, European Investment Bank, etc. Her current research topics include: financial inclusion and conditional cash transfers, households financial practices, rural credit markets, mobile banking and remittances in West Africa.

**Abstract**  
*Short description, including alignment with conference themes and objectives*

Until recently migration dynamics have mostly been analyzed through their economic (positive or negative) impact on migrants' homelands. Following the seminal work of Levitt on Social remittances (Levitt, 1998), scholars have started to look at other kinds of transfers such as: ideas, attitudes, identities, know-how, new practices and skills, etc. In the meantime, a great deal of research has been conducted on information technologies towards low-income urban and rural populations in the Global South. The session intends to link these two strands of the literature to better deepen our understanding of the role played by migrants- understood as individuals or collectively, the diaporas (south-south or south-north migration) in the adoption and diffusion of information and communication technologies in migrants' homelands.

**Description**  
*Proposed discussion focus*

The session will seek to address the question of the role played by Diasporas in the adoption of new IT solutions among rural populations. The session intends to welcome proposals that will provide empirical analyses of the links between ICTs, migration and migrants' families, homeland. The session not only intends to look at migrants as drivers of ICTs uptake and usage but will also try to address the social impact of these ICTs on migration dynamics and power relationships among migrants' family members. Actually, our assumption is that the adoption of a specific ICT device will induce a reconfiguration of family relationships and hierarchies. A specific focus of the session will be on the recent launch of Mobile Money services to channel international remittances. Other ICTs may include mobile phones, internet, etc.

**Objectives**  
*Justification and expected impact during and after the conference*

The session is in line with the conference's objectives: ICTs for development. It brings a cutting-edge research topic to the conference that will allow people working on migration issues meet with people working on ICTs for development (two hot topics in the field of development). The topic of the session is very much connected to a research project I am leading on mobile money usage by Burkinabé migrants workers in Ivory Coast. The project is starting but we can imagine that this session will allow building a new research network –network building- on such issues in order to build a bigger project in the near future (the European Investment bank is funding research on mobile banking in West Africa). Finally, in case the papers are good enough we can think of a publishing a special issue.

**Target Audience** Social scientists, policy makers, private actors.