

Rebordering to Control Mobility from Afar: Narratives and Actions of Local and International Institutions in Senegal

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The externalisation of EU migration control southward and eastward of its geographical borders in the 2000s has included the delocalisation and out-sourcing of European migration control to countries of departures and transit. This process, in Senegal, has meant the displacement of the European frontier there and the reification of Senegalese borders. This paper asks how this rebordering process was put into place in Senegal, in particular given that in the local social and political context migration has been an important livelihood and development strategy. To provide insight into the process in which borders were moved, this paper will examine the interactions of three institutions involved in the process in Senegal; those of States, inter-governmental organisations and civil society members. This will lead me to a discussion of the relations between non-security narratives and actors and the security and political objectives behind the European containment of migration in Senegal. It is thus hoped to contribute to the delimitation of the modalities of the contemporary European control of mobility in Africa.